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- Zoe Girven, Rhoads Elementary student



Fun Facts Dear's Students Don't Know

1. She wants to write a children's book one day.
2. She has been zip lining four times, but she is afraid of heights.
3. She runs five days a week.
4. Her favorite book is *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio.

Morgan Dear is a teacher that is impacting her students through kindness

An A+ Teacher

Rhoads Elementary School fourth-grade math teacher, Morgan Dear, is positively impacting students' lives by modeling kindness and making their day

Written by Wendy Teng | Photography by Candace Cook

Morgan Dear had a student who was feeling nervous about wearing glasses to school for the first time. Dear and several students wore glasses on the same day to make the student feel more comfortable. That is an example of how she demonstrates acceptance and love to her students.

The impact a teacher makes on students is not often recognized, but it is one of the factors that leads to a student's success. Dear is one teacher who works continuously to positively impact her students' lives.

Katy ISD Raised

Dear grew up attending Katy ISD schools starting in fourth grade. She loved the teaching environment and the teachers in the district when she was learning as a student and still feels the same way. She has the ability and skills to educate future students where she grew up. "I love Katy ISD because the district has given me the opportunity to do the job I am passionate about and teach my students with support and encouragement," says Dear.

When Dear was in middle school she was diagnosed with attention deficit disorder. Even though she struggled with learning at school, the diagnosis inspired her. "That was a pivotal moment in my life because I knew I wanted to become a teacher and help students be successful in learning, despite the struggles they were facing."

Zoe Girven, a current student of Dear's, believes that she can do anything she sets her mind to because of Dear's encouragement. "She made me feel special and helped me to believe in myself. Now I believe in myself more and know that I can do whatever I want. She is my favorite teacher ever," adds Girven.

No One Gets Left Behind

Principal of Rhoads Elementary, Carrie L. Lowery, praises Dear as an outstanding teacher that impacts her students' lives by providing captivating lessons and exciting activities. "Students are only as engaged and excited as their teacher. She sets the tone for her classroom and leads students to new heights," she says.

Dear makes sure that her students are right there with her and keep up during the lessons. She would never want a student to feel like they have fallen behind. "She knows how to break things down in a special way that is just perfect to learn. I have been able to understand math much better. She influences me to learn more, try harder, and be a better student because of how she teaches me," says student Olivia Owens.

Parents are also singing praises for Dear. Larissa DeLeon, the mother of Ariyana who is one of Dear's students, says "She boosted my daughter's self-esteem, and lit a spark in my daughter because she had someone she looked up to that believed in her. Dear never gives up on her students. If there was ever a time there was a student having a bad day, she would find a way to cheer them up. There really aren't enough good things to say about Morgan Dear. She's a gem," remarks DeLeon.

Modeling Kindness

Dear shows kindness to her students through daily actions. Whether it's taking sweet hugging pictures with her kiddos or standing at the door while the kids walk into the cafeteria for lunch, giving every student a high-five. Dear makes it her goal to see their faces light up and make their day. "She makes me want to be a math and science teacher when I grow up," says Jaila Osborne, a student in Dear's switch class.

Academic education is important, but social responsibility and behavior should not be neglected. Dear supports teaching and setting an example for students on good citizenship and proper social skills. "I can tell she is genuinely concerned about not only their academics but also feels a responsibility for their overall success," says Lowery. Dear hopes that if her students could learn one thing from her it is to choose kindness. **KM**

WENDY TENG is a freelance writer with an MHA degree. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, writing, volunteering, trying new restaurants, and learning about new organizations.